

1 1. A method for partially synchronizing a local
2 database stored on a local computer and a remote database
3 stored on a remote computer, the method comprising:
4 forming a message including information related to a
5 local update of the local database;
6 selecting a path from one or more communication
7 paths coupling the local computer to the remote computer to
8 pass the message to the remote computer;
9 transmitting data including the message to the
10 remote computer over the selected path;
11 receiving the data at the remote computer;
12 processing the message included in the received data
13 and providing the information related to the local update to
14 a remote application executing on the remote computer; and
15 updating a remote database coupled to the remote
16 application using the information related to the local
17 update.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 determining whether the local update to the local database
3 should be sent to the remote computer.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
2 accepting from the remote application information
3 related to a remote update of the remote database;
4 selecting a return path from the one or more
5 communication paths coupling the local computer to the
6 remote computer to transmit the information related to the
7 remote update to the local computer;
8 transmitting the information related to the remote
9 update to the message router over the selected return path;
10 and

11 updating the local database using the information
12 related to the remote update.

1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein:
2 determining whether the local update to the local
3 database should be sent to the remote computer includes
4 accessing a local application coupled to the local database
5 using a first application communication protocol; and
6 wherein
7 providing the information to the remote application
8 uses a second application communication protocol.

1 5 The method of 4 wherein the first application
2 communication protocol is MAPI and the second application
3 communication protocol is POP.

1 6. The method of claim 3 wherein the local
2 database and the remote database include electronic mail
3 messages.

1 7. The method of claim 3 wherein the local
2 database and the remote database include personal calendar
3 information.

1 8. The method of claim 3 further comprising
2 setting configuration data, and wherein selecting the path
3 from the one or more communication paths for transmission to
4 the remote computer includes accessing that configuration
5 data.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising
2 setting configuration data on the remote computer, and
3 wherein selecting the return path from the one or more

4 communication paths for transmission to the local computer
5 includes accessing that configuration data.

1 10. The method of claim 3 wherein transmitting the
2 data to the remote computer over the selected path for the
3 message includes:

4 transmitting the data to a networked server over a
5 first data network;

6 storing the data in a networked database hosted on
7 the networked server;

8 providing the data from the networked database to
9 the remote computer over a second communication network.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the first data
2 network is the Internet and the second data network is a
3 wireless data network.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the data is
2 stored in the networked database as electronic mail.

1 13. The method of claim 10 further comprises:
2 encrypting the message prior to transmission to the
3 networked server; and

4 decrypting the message after receipt of the message
5 at the remote computer.

1 14. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 establishing the selected path, wherein the selected
3 path passes through a communication interface; and

4 buffering the data in the communication interface
5 until the selected communication path is established.

1 15. The method of claim 14 further comprising
2 combining data for a plurality of messages for transmission
3 to the remote computer as a single transmission packet.
4

5 16. A method for providing a remote computer access
6 to a local database, the method comprising:
7 sending a message, including information related to
8 a local update to the local database over a first data
9 network to a networked computer;
10 receiving the message at the networked computer;
11 updating a networked database hosted on the
12 networked computer using the information related to the
13 local update;
14 accessing and updating the networked database from a
15 remote computer over a second data network;
16 sending a message that includes information related
17 to the update of the networked database from the networked
18 computer over the first data network;
19 receiving the message that includes the information
20 related to the update of the networked database; and
21 updating the local database using the information
22 related to the update of the networked database.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the first data
2 network is the Internet and the second data network is a
3 wireless data network.

1 18. The method of claim 16 wherein the local
2 database and the networked database include electronic mail
3 messages.

1 19. The method of claim 16 wherein sending the
2 message that includes information related to the local

3 update includes sending a message formatted as a request for
4 data using an application protocol, and receiving the
5 message that includes the information related to the update
6 of the networked database includes receiving a message
7 formatted as a response to a request using the application
8 protocol;

9 whereby communication between the local computer and
10 the remote computer passes through a gateway device which
11 restricts communication to protocols including the
12 application protocol.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the application
2 protocol is http and the messages are formatted using HTML.

1 21. A system comprising:

2 a local database;

3 an agent for accessing information related to a
4 local update of the local database, and for forming a
5 message including that information for transmission to a
6 remote computer;
7 a message router for accepting the message from the
8 agent, and for selecting a path from one or more
9 communication paths coupling the message router and the
10 remote computer to pass the message to the remote computer;
11 and

12 a local communication interface for accepting data
13 including the message and transmitting the data to the
14 remote computer over the selected path.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein the agent
2 further determines whether the information related to the
3 local update should be sent to the remote computer.

1 23. The system of claim 22 further comprising:
2 a remote database;
3 a remote communication interface on the remote
4 computer for accepting the transmitted data including the
5 message; and
6 a remote application for accepting the information
7 related to the local update from the remote communication
8 interface, and for updating the remote database using that
9 information.

1 24. The system of claim 23 wherein
2 the remote communication interface further accepts
3 information related to a remote update to the remote
4 database and selects which of the one or more communication
5 paths coupling the remote computer to the message router
6 should be used to transmit the information related to the
7 remote update to the message router.

1 25. The system of claim 23 wherein the remote
2 communication interface includes a hook module that accepts
3 the message including the information related to the local
4 update and provides the information to the remote
5 application over an application program interface.

1 26. The system of claim 21 further comprising a
2 networked server for receiving the data transmitted from the
3 local communication interface, including a database for
4 storing that data prior to communicating with the remote
5 computer.

1 27. Software stored on a computer readable medium
2 for causing a computer to perform the functions of:

3 assessing information related to an update of a
4 local database;
5 determining whether to forward the information to a
6 remote computer;
7 selecting a communication path for passing the
8 information to the remote computer;
9 forming a message including the information; and
10 sending the message on the selected communication
11 path to the remote computer.

1 28. Software stored on a computer readable medium
2 for causing a computer to perform the functions of:
3 accepting a message from another computer including
4 remote update information related to a database update;
5 providing the remote update information to an
6 application program for updating a local database stored on
7 the computer;
8 accepting local update information related to an
9 update of the local database from the application program;
10 determining whether to send the local update
11 information to the other computer; and
12 sending the local update information to the other
13 computer.

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